

**OTIS PLAYGROUND / Otis and Dana Streets**  
**Community Meeting No. 2**  
**Tuesday, March 3, 2015**

**Location: East Somerville Community School Cafeteria. 6:30 – 8:00 PM**

This was the first public meeting with the project's Landscape Architects, CBA Landscape Architecture. Audience members included parents from the neighborhood, Alderman Matt McLaughlin, a staff representative from Representative Tim Toomey's office, and an enthusiastic group of project supporters from Somerville Teen Empowerment.

The project's landscape architects, CBA Landscape Architecture, presented an analysis of park, discussed the design opportunities and provided a survey requesting community feedback on the Playground's design priorities.

Audience comments and discussion topics are listed below:

1. The current Otis Street entrance arch should be moved to the left and a second gate should be installed on Dana Street so that you can see all the way through the playground when you enter.
2. The ground level under the bridge should be lowered so that you can easily walk through the park.
3. Eliminating one of the large trees to open up sightlines and provide a better path through the park was discussed, and while people appreciated the size of the tree and its canopy, they said the issue of safety should take precedent and that more trees should be planted if that one tree has to be removed.
4. Albion Park is a great example of what could be done at Otis Playground. Neighbors liked Albion's raised lawn area and the large steps which also serve as a seating area.
5. Audience members requested swings, more tables and chairs, and a good slide. Spinning chairs like Chuckie Harris Park were also suggested.
6. Residents also suggested the possibility of a basketball hoop, and climbing walls, and asked that the new design have some sort of water feature.
7. Both security and decorative lighting were discussed and suggestions were made to attach decorative lighting to the underside of the bridge.
8. Residents repeated earlier concerns about the poor condition of the Massachusetts Highway Department's pedestrian Bridge and pointed out that concrete is falling off and is unsafe.
9. Residents requested that the bridge be painted so that it didn't look as bad.

